

BAY FARM

Bay Farm is a delightful shoreline facility in a shoreline town.

The Bay Farm committee, composed of 3 members of our planning board, have proposed 2 town meeting articles on the future status of Bay Farm. Robert Cooper thinks the 44-acre parcel should be used for "passive recreation" and to this end advocated installing picnic table and trash cans.

He also thinks the town should spend some money to put part of the land back into condition for a hay crop which would be maintained by the 4-H Club. A good hay crop could put \$2,000 into the town till annually.

Selectmen Barber, who disapproved of the purchase of the site, thinks police and highway department costs would be excessive if Bay Farm offered "passive recreation." Such costs, we think, would be minimal considering the benefits involved.

But let's not put the cart before the horse. Before we invest much money in the tract let us first rezone Bay Farm to Business II (if rezoning is required by law for such purposes as dispensing gas).

There are good arguments for putting a marina on the shore for much needed mooring facilities and small boat launchings. There is at present a small and inadequate self-maintaining beach. It would benefit the community if there was a larger all-tide beach.

As for policing, the facility would lessen the need for policing in other areas. Moreover, traffic would be reduced in the most congested part of town during summers--in the Mattakeesett Court area.

The 4-H Club would maintain their tract, which could be used for such bucolic pursuits as horseshows. The only cost to the town would be to put the land into condition for a hay crop. This would cost \$5,000 at most.

Incidentally, increasing requests for recreational facilities point up the need for an overall recreational commission which would cut costs by preventing duplication, by enabling the town to take care of its athletic fields and other facilities by making a central agency